

HOW TO PRAY FOR ZERO

Over **1 billion** people don't have the full Bible in their language.

Millions don't have a single verse.

Together, we're praying these numbers down to **Zero**.

Start with This Prayer

Jesus, speed up and empower the Bible translation movement. Rescue the nations out of darkness with the light of Your Word.

Join the Journey to Zero

Use this guide to pray strategically and effectively for the work of Bible translation around the world.

SAHEL

“Sahel” means “coast” in Arabic; in our context it refers to the belt along the southern “coast” of the Sahara across Africa. The region encompasses 12 countries where local partners—often using French as a common language—are committed, passionate, and gifted. The Sahel region faces persistent challenges that affect ministry and travel, including security risks, political instability and violence, travel hazards, famine, drought, and poverty. Even with these obstacles, Bible translation and Scripture engagement continue through resilient local teams and partner organizations across the Sahel.

Pray for Those Still Waiting for Bible Translation to Start

Population	Languages
3.4 million	77

Pray for Those without the full Bible

Population
127.7 million

Source: ProgressBible™. SNAPSHOT. November 2025..

Numbers may shift as new needs are discovered or languages fall out of use.

Pseudonyms may be used for names and locations in areas hostile to Christians.

PRAYER UPDATES FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Our team operates in a land where all but a few “secret believers” follow a major world religion. The family of a translator was heavily pressuring him to stop work or they would break up his family and marriage. Praise God that they have stopped doing that! Pray for another translator who continues to be called in for monthly “interviews” by security forces to ask about his whereabouts. Pray that the Lord will keep protecting His work.

— A Bible translation team in Eurasia

A majority of the Deaf community are saying that they won’t accept the Bible story interpretations based on the religious backgrounds of our 2 team translators. However, a man named Luis has signed that he will. Pray that the rest of the Deaf here will have a change of heart.

— The Santa Catarina Albarradas Sign team in Mexico

Praise God for His wisdom and guidance for our team as He faithfully ensures the accuracy of our translation. He has protected us against spiritual attacks, discouragement, and fatigue even during times when our work was intense. We glorify Him for harmony among the team, reviewers, and stakeholders.

— The Ndwewe team in Tanzania

Thank God for providing a very dependable and safe way to transport our team. A boat operated by a partner organization was returned to service in Milne Bay. Pray that He will help us establish more reliable digital connections from our island.

—The Sudest team in Papua New Guinea

SCRIPTURE

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

1 Thessalonians 5:16–18 (ESV)

REGIONAL UPDATE

Challenges Arise for Partners in Mali and Côte d'Ivoire

Translation partners in Mali and Côte d'Ivoire are asking for prayer.

As a landlocked country in West Africa, Mali depends on imports that are shipped to neighboring countries and then transported into Mali. Since September, however, Jihadists have targeted fuel tankers coming from Senegal and Côte d'Ivoire, many of which carry fuel and imported goods for the people of Mali. Due to the resulting fuel shortage, a key translation partner has been forced to evacuate all of its expatriate staff. Some have moved to nearby countries; others have returned to their home countries for the time being.

In the city of Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, the building of our primary field partner is in a state of advanced disrepair due to humidity and age. A 2025 building survey recommends evacuating the premises within 12 months.

PRAY FOR MALI

- For those who have been evacuated, that God will protect them and provide for their needs during this uncertain time.
- For those who remain in Mali, that they may continue their work with courage, wisdom, and discernment, despite these disruptions.
- For wisdom for Malian translation leaders as they monitor the situation and advise their personnel.
- For security and peace in Mali, and throughout the Sahel region.

PRAY FOR CÔTE d'IVOIRE

- That the Lord will help our partner's leadership to make the best decisions in this situation.
- That God will send the necessary resources to meet these challenges, including the evacuation process, identifying temporary offices, and plans for the future.
- That, despite these major changes, challenges, and uncertainties, our partner's leadership and staff may sense God's peace and guidance.

IMPACT STORY

Praising the Lord Through Music in Chad

Music is important in worship and in Chadian culture. People in at least 2 translation projects in Chad are reporting on how song writing has been prominent in their lives.

In the Mango translation project, an ethnomusicology workshop focused on creating songs based on translated Psalms. Says Naomi, a mother, “I have never had a Bible song. But through this workshop, I was able to compose a song based on Bible texts translated into my language. I bless the Lord with all my heart for this achievement in the field of songwriting. I pray that the Lord will help me to compose other songs with the texts translated into my language.”

In the city of Mongo, 3 members of the Dadjo community—Chabo, Sofoye, and Achta—have been able to draft 3 songs in their language, and these songs have now been recorded. One missionary (who is not a native Dadjo speaker) uses them in the village, and many people appreciate them. Some people even tell him, “You have truly become Dadjo.”

PRAISE

- That cultural songs telling of the wonders and marvels of God's character are being written and shared in villages in Chad.
- That even though travel to Chad for U.S. citizens is not permitted at this time, God opened a door that allowed much-needed computers to reach projects in Chad.

PRAY

- For the relationship between U.S. and Chadian government officials to improve, so that they can work out the visa issues that limit American travel into the country.

PARTNER HIGHLIGHT

Wycliffe Togo

For many years, Wycliffe Togo provided staff for Bible translation projects and promoted Scripture use in local communities. In 2021, they began managing translation projects, starting with an Oral Bible Translation (OBT) project for the Dangbe and Houdou language groups.

Since then, they've continued adding more OBT projects and also started a written project. In addition, they're managing an ambitious project that is tackling translation into 3 variations of Togolese Sign Language. Wycliffe Togo is now working with more than 10 language communities and carrying out mobilization work among several other groups.

PRAISE

- For how well the OBT projects are going, and that teams have added Bible books to their current translation plans.
- For the committed Wycliffe Togo staff and how they all contribute to the success of the organization.

PRAY

- For Seed Company Global Translation Leader Merveille Womitso, as he learns media specialist skills at i-DELTA—skills that will greatly support all the new Wycliff Togo translation projects.
- For Wycliffe Togo staff as they continue taking on more responsibilities, especially the IT department staff, which has more work than ever.

SCRIPTED PRAYER

“For you bless the godly, O Lord; you surround them with your shield of love.”

— Psalm 5:12 (NLT)

Dear Father,

I pray that you will bring national translators, consultants, churches, and local organizations together in unity. Cover them and their work with Your favor as with a shield. By Your Spirit, protect them from dissension and show them that Your promises find their yes in Jesus!

PRAY NOW

Unsettled Countries

U.S. citizens are no longer allowed to visit 5 of the Sahel region countries. This not only affects our relationships with partners, but also impacts the translation projects themselves, as U.S.-based consultants and trainers may no longer travel for in-person work. Please pray for peace in the region. Pray for international diplomatic relations to improve with these nations. And pray for wisdom for these nations' governments as they deal with war, terrorism, and political division.

TRANSLATED SCRIPTURE

Mabe [MAH'–BEE] Language

Now I want you to know, dear brothers and sisters, what God in his kindness has done through the churches in Macedonia. They are being tested by many troubles, and they are very poor. But they are also filled with abundant joy, which has overflowed in rich generosity. For I can testify that they gave not only what they could afford, but far more. And they did it of their own free will. They begged us again and again for the privilege of sharing in the gift for the believers in Jerusalem.

— 2 Corinthians 8:1-4 (NLT)

Bel tii, ri kah pagna ro sum timqaraq i naa Siketi pa yag kohmni tii gi'na sq Masedwan. Loozira lo'w lii dugu. De' iga ri' in dugu lo'w ha hiizi igza lo'w ma i naa dugzi ka rqbba lo'w tede. Mi kori ma nini, hiizi iga i naa ki'zire higna. Hiizi hqa kan kaa ig daani dugu, hiizi ma kahni ere. Huuzi dag re yag ri lo'w ka re ta' re daa fah ka re yqa sq sogla i do' kaa gbahri seh napugzi Siketi sq Zeruzalem.

— 2 Corinthians 8:1-4 (Maby)

LEARNING ABOUT GENEROSITY

The Maby translation team learned an important lesson from their study of 2 Corinthians 8 as they prepared the text for the consultant's review.

They were convicted by verses 1–5, highlighting gifts from churches in Macedonia to support believers in Jerusalem. “Despite their poverty, these churches gave more than they could afford,” the team writes. “It moved us deeply to see poor people like us giving more for the things of God. May God give us the spirit of giving so that we may imitate the example of the Corinthians for the glory of God.”

The Maby community is about evenly split between Christians and Muslims, who live side-by-side. Translation project leaders have invited Maby-speaking Muslims to attend literacy classes so they can read and write God's Word in their mother tongue.

- Please pray for Maby Muslims, that God would speak to them, both through His Word and through the lives and testimonies of their Christian neighbors.

The main delay for the Maby team in completing their New Testament has been the availability of a translation consultant. In a huge answer to prayer, a consultant from a neighboring country has relocated his family so he can support 2 translation teams, including the Maby.

- Please pray for the consultant and his family as they adjust to the many changes in their lives. The consultant's teenage daughter recently had an urgent surgery. Please pray for her health and that of the whole family. Pray for the education of the kids. Pray for God to protect them and provide for their every need.

GLOBAL TRANSLATION LEADER

Global Translation Leader Ignites Movement

Mathaus Njeck helps people groups in Cameroon learn about their language by investigating the grammar and developing an orthography. The Cameroon Association for Bible Translation and Literacy (CABTAL) asked Seed Company to support Mathaus' doctoral research in linguistics.

Mathaus has completed an internship and is almost finished with his doctorate. CABTAL reports, "This internship has not only empowered a single leader, but it has also ignited a movement. Through his academic growth, technical mastery, and spiritual sensitivity, entire communities are now experiencing the transformative power of mother tongue Scripture and literacy. He has mentored numerous young linguists, including many interns who serve our projects as facilitators in various communities. His efforts have laid a foundation for sustainable capacity development, ensuring that the next generation of linguists is equipped to serve with excellence."

PRAISE

- For the impact Mathaus has had in Cameroon, Nigeria, and beyond.

PRAY

- That Mathaus will soon successfully defend his thesis and receive his doctorate.
- That Mathaus will continue to grow spiritually and mentor more and more people.
- That Mathaus' wife will be able to find a good job.

SCRIPTURE

“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.”

Matthew 6:9–13 (NIV)

PRAY NOW

Vasu Oral Bible Translators

Praise God that a much-needed Oral Bible Translation refresher course for the Vasu team was rescheduled. Pray for the safety of the Vasu community as kidnappers are active in the area. Pray also that team members who continue to translate Luke orally will be able to master Render software, which guides oral communicators in creating culturally relevant materials for their language.

PARTNER HIGHLIGHT

Spoken Worldwide

Spoken Worldwide enables oral-learning communities to hear and engage God's Word by conducting Oral Bible Translation (OBT) and discipleship in local heart-languages—especially where written words cannot reach. They have partnered in the Hijuk language translation.

The effect of oral translation is evident in the story of Kouske Gilbert, a 75-year-old Hijuk man. He thought he was too old, poor, and unworthy to understand God's Word. "In my youth, I made many mistakes. I abandoned my first wife, drank a lot, fought with neighbors, and said things I couldn't take back," he says.

One day, however, he heard the Hijuk oral translation of Luke 7, where a woman washes Jesus' feet with her tears.

"Hearing it in Hijuk was like hearing it for the first time," he says. "When Jesus said her sins were forgiven because she loved much... I realized that I, too, could be forgiven."

Now he treats others kindly and has reconciled with his first wife's family. He says, "The oral Bible passages have given me peace."

PRAISE

- That Hijuk people are responding to Jesus' good news of forgiveness and peace.
- That traditional authorities are endorsing OBT projects in their communities. Pray that the Lord will continue to soften their hearts.

PRAY

- That God will protect translators as they travel on bad roads to their checking sessions.
- For the good health of all translators and their families.

IMPACT STORY

Rejecting Superstitions and Trusting Christ

A Bafaw speaker attending a Gospel and Culture workshop in Cameroon made a bold decision to place his faith—and his family's security—firmly in Jesus Christ.

Esambe Peter, a longtime church attender, owned several charms that he kept for many years out of superstition, believing they were needed to protect his family. On the first day of the workshop, he felt convicted and decided to give up the charms.

He says, “I have been a Christian for so many years now, going to church and listening to the gospel countless times, but still keeping my charms. I believed they were protecting me and my family. But during this Gospel and Culture workshop, I decided to bring out these charms to be destroyed so that my family and I can be set free by Jesus Christ. Now, I am free, and I wholeheartedly give my life to Jesus Christ for Him to be my protector and not a common charm. I am blessed with this Bible translation project in our land and language.”

PRAISE

- For the spirit of unity displayed by the Bafaw community as people are coming together to ensure the New Testament project finishes well.
- For the Scripture engagement team as they've started reading Bafaw Scriptures during church services and for the interest this is generating.

PRAY

- For unity and oneness to continue as the Bafaw church and community work together to prepare for the New Testament dedication.
- For the Bafaw translation team as they perform final checks and prepare the New Testament for typesetting and publication.
- For Bafaw literacy as they increase their efforts.

SCRIPTURE

“Publish his glorious deeds among the nations. Tell everyone about the amazing things he does. Great is the Lord! He is most worthy of praise!”

Psalms 96:3-4a (NLT)

PRAY NOW

Kla-Dan Story Sharing

The Kla-Dan Oral Bible Storytelling team completed their second story workshop in November. Pray for them this month as they share in the Kla-Dan community these 7 oral stories they crafted: “Elijah and the prophets of Baal,” “David and Goliath,” “Mary and her visit with the angel Gabriel,” “The birth of Jesus,” “Jesus calms the storm,” “Parable of the father and his 2 sons (Prodigal Son),” and “The Parable of the wheat and the weeds.”